



FEMA

CDP Superintendent's Message

Here at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) we focus on delivering all-hazard preparedness training for local, tribal and state first responders. This training is timely, skill-based, and a critical investment in more resilient communities. Time and time again, we have seen cases of CDP alumni putting what they have learned with us to work – saving lives, protecting property and making our country safer for all Americans.



A great example is what happened last spring in the attempted Times Square car bombing in New York City, NY. On May 1, 2010 a local vendor noticed smoke seeping from the rear of a parked vehicle and alerted a nearby officer, Wayne Rhatigan. Officer Rhatigan, who attended CDP training at New York City's Training Center, quickly enlisted the help of two other officers patrolling the area to create a perimeter, to prevent casualties in case the car exploded. They also alerted the bomb squad, who was on scene within minutes to help diffuse the situation.

The vehicle was carrying a large amount of accelerants and explosives that could have killed hundreds, not only from the blast, but from the collateral damage of buildings. The quick thinking by Officer Rhatigan, who acknowledged his CDP training resulted in his decisive response to evacuate, rather than investigate the smoking car a little closer, helped thwart the attempted attack.

NYPD academy instructors and CDP Instructor Rich Teemsma (a former NYPD Bomb Squad Detective) taught Rhatigan's classes, which trained officers in the RAIN (Recognize, Avoid, Isolate, Notify) concept related to protection from improvised explosive devices. Rich commonly tells his students if they find a suspicious package they should "RAIN on it."

So when I think about how our training can benefit all communities, I look at the actions of Officer Rhatigan as a great example. His CDP training helped protect citizens in Times Square that day. CDP alumni leave our training better equipped to protect their hometowns from very real hazards, and we are honored to play a part in that investment.

- Dr. Jones

Note

The man responsible for the attempted attack, Faisal Shahzad, was sentenced to life in prison October 5, 2010.

F^{CDP}OCUS

Deputy Administrator Visits CDP

FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino visited the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), Feb. 24, and received a firsthand look at the advanced, hands-on training provided to first response personnel from across the nation.

"I was impressed with the professionalism and all the great training for first responders," Serino said following his tour of the 124-acre CDP campus. "The CDP instills safety in first responders across the country and ultimately it contributes to safer communities and resiliency throughout the nation. The CDP does great work. The hard work that occurs at the CDP translates into making a safer country."



Deputy Administrator Richard Serino observes the triage and cutout of a simulated survivor by first responders before entering the decontamination process at the CDP. Responding to all-hazards, mass-casualty events is a highlight and core principle behind CDP training.



Deputy Administrator Serino receives a brief inside the Emergency Operations Center during his tour of the CDP.

This was Serino's first visit to the CDP since joining FEMA in October 2009. Serino toured several CDP facilities, including the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility—a toxic agent training site that uses GB and VX nerve agents in training. He also visited the Noble Training Facility—the nation's only hospital dedicated solely to training health care professionals for a mass casualty response. ~

Tribal Homeland Security Coordinator Trains at CDP



Jerry BigEagle

Jerry BigEagle, Tribal Homeland Security Coordinator for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, recently attended training that is available to all tribal emergency response professionals at the CDP. After completing the CDP's Technical Emergency Response Training for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Incidents course, BigEagle is encouraging his fellow tribal responders to take advantage of the same training.

"A few weeks ago, I couldn't correctly explain to our responders on the reservation about training opportunities at the Center for Domestic Preparedness facility," BigEagle said. "Now I can, and I believe all Tribes should think more about professional development of homeland security and their public safety. There are a lot of Tribal Homeland Security Tribal liaisons planning to retire soon, and the next generation of Tribal responders need to ensure they are trained so they can step up and take leadership positions that require emergency response knowledge.

"If we have an emergency, I want all departments to be prepared and all Native Nations should prepare as well," BigEagle said. "In my opinion, the FEMA training offered at the CDP is invaluable and useful." ~



Who We Are

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is the only Congressionally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training center for civilians. The CDP specializes in providing resident and non-resident advanced hands-on, all-hazards training for America's state, local, and tribal emergency responders in their mission to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist acts and other catastrophic events, especially those involving WMD or hazardous materials. The CDP's cutting-edge training incorporates the nation's only toxic chemical agent training facility for civilian responders and a fully scoped hospital used for training mass casualty incident management for healthcare and public health professionals. When appropriate, the CDP can train other federal government, foreign, and private responders on a reimbursable basis. Training at the CDP is fully funded by DHS. The CDP's training programs offer a selection of more than 50 courses, a large on-site billeting and dining capacity, and a fully certified, multi-disciplined instructional staff with an average of 19 years of experience in their respective emergency response fields. Newsletter articles are written by CDP External Affairs staff unless otherwise noted. Contents of the CDP Focus do not imply endorsement by the CDP, NTED, FEMA, DHS or the Federal Government. Items appearing in this newsletter are considered of potential interest to CDP staff and responder students. Content suggestions should be directed to the External Affairs Office at 256-847-2212. Learn more about the CDP at <http://cdp.dhs.gov>. ~

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Agricultural	Chemical	Command	Environmental	Incident	Response
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First responders attending the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE (ERHM) incidents course now have the opportunity to receive Pro Board certification through the Alabama Fire College.

CDP, AFC OFFERS PRO BOARD CERTIFICATION

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) recently teamed with the Alabama Fire College (AFC) to offer Pro Board certifications to eligible first responders attending the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE (ERHM) incidents course. The Pro Board certification for the CDP curriculum under the umbrella of the AFC program provides an opportunity for graduates to receive a nationally recognized certificate for hazardous materials emergency response.

According to Rick Dickson, CDP assistant director for training delivery, Alabama Fire College's cooperation was instrumental in the partnership that will benefit graduates of the CDP's ERHM course and emergency response agencies nationwide.

"Pro Board certification is a major credential to a large majority of first responders," said Dickson. "This accreditation is available because of the partnership between the CDP and AFC, and the ability of the CDP to offer this under the umbrella of AFC. It is a significant success story for the CDP training because it offers the emergency response community an opportunity, through education, that impacts their professional career."

"Pro Board accreditation ensures both the student and the employer that the training and evaluation processes have met internationally-accepted benchmarks of quality," said Allan Rice, executive director, AFC and Personnel Standards Commission. "AFC is very proud to have CDP operating within our state, and we are even more proud of the partnership that has been forged between us. By working together, we are meeting the needs of America's first responders."

The fire college has only designated ERHM as the current CDP training program for Pro Board certification and plans to offer the test in early April. Among the many courses offered at the CDP for emergency response personnel, ERHM is a five-day class providing responders with a combination of lectures and advanced hands-on practical exercises.

The course introduces response personnel to the terrorist threat, the hazardous materials management system, responder health and safety, the Incident Command System (ICS), site management, information management, response objectives, and terminating the incident. The responder receives hands-on training in identifying hazardous materials, using advanced surveying and monitoring equipment, selecting and using the appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and performing decontamination procedures. ~



Worth Repeating

Dear CDP,

Currently I am serving as an emergency management specialist for the largest integrated healthcare system in New Jersey and I would like to share how the CDP has played a role in the development of our hospital emergency response teams. Our department personnel have been repeat CDP trainees for more than 6 years. We realize the best in CBRNE, WMD, as well as other emergency response training can be found at the CDP in Anniston. The course content and instructional quality is simply outstanding.

Being responsible for training our six hospital response teams of more than 300 members, we have always infused our CDP training experiences into our own training programs. Whether it is how to collect clothing that may be used later as evidence, or performing technical decontamination, or retelling a shared experience from one of the many qualified CDP instructors, you could easily spot the CDP influence in how we conduct our trainings. However, the largest impact comes from the CDP indirect instructor training programs, specifically the HERT course.

In 2009 when the HERT indirect delivery materials became available our department immediately began changing our curriculum to that of the HERT indirect delivery course. We even went as far as to mimic the lanes training so our team members could get a real taste of what many other responders have experienced in Anniston. The proof as they say is in the pudding and our teams have performed better during drills and exercises, which increases our system's capability to respond to a CBRNE or WMD event where contamination may be present.

Additionally we began an initiative in fall of 2010 to cross train CERT groups in HERT and hospital decontamination operations as a force multiplier if ever needed. Several CERT coordinators from different counties as well as other non-system New Jersey hospital emergency management personnel attended a pilot program where we delivered the HERT eight hour didactic course. The response was very positive. Our short term goal is to begin to deliver HERT courses to area CERT groups and train them on our decontamination equipment and ultimately drill them with our own HERT teams. Our long term goal is deliver HERT courses to CERT groups across the state so other hospitals can benefit from these cross trained groups.

None of this would have been possible if it weren't for the excellent training opportunities that exist in the resident training program. The atmosphere created by the instructors and support staff is simply the best. Whenever our department personnel return from a visit to the CDP they bring back not only what they have learned, but what they have experienced; the comfortable accommodations, the friendly faces at the chow hall, the drivers who always welcome us back, and the networking opportunities. It is a pleasure to sit in classes with people around the globe who share the same commitment to prepare and protect and respond. The CDP resident program trains responders to be more efficient, effective and operate safely, producing better responders and ultimately strengthening communities. ~

Thank You,
Shawn Martin
Emergency Management Specialist
Saint Barnabas Health Care System



Shawn Martin

International Training Bonds Partnership

Lieutenant Colonel Chezy Deutsch (pictured left), from the Israel Defense Force (IDF), Home Front Command discusses lessons learned and future Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) training opportunities with CDP Superintendent Dr. Todd Jones recently. Sandra Pagan, CDP's coordinator for international students, also participated in the discussion.

Since 2008, more than 100 IDF officers and soldiers have completed training courses at the CDP. The visit focused on other courses of possible interest to the IDF. LTC Deutsch expressed their continued interest in the Technical Emergency Response Training (TERT) for CBRNE Incidents course. He says his military leadership continues to receive favorable feedback from those attending TERT. After completing the exercise in the toxic agent environment of the COBRA Training Facility, "many have said they now 'get it' and feel more confident in their abilities and equipment," Deutsch said.

More training is planned as the partnership between the CDP and IDF continues. ~





Emergency Medical Response to Mass Casualty Training



Healthcare workers attending the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents course decontaminate a simulated survivor during training. The HERT course provides guidance to emergency response providers who may become involved in a mass casualty incident, and prepares teams to conduct safe and effective emergency response activities.

Healthcare workers rush to decontaminate survivors during an exercise at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). These students were attending the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents course that places emergency response providers in a realistic mass-casualty training scenario. "The training is intense and the material is very thorough as well," said Adam Ramirez, a registered nurse. "I personally believe this course will provide a better direction for our department and provide added leadership to the staff training here. I've experienced a variety of scenarios, in the last four years that could have been dealt with differently by seeing what we went through here. This training prepares us better, and sets a standard for us to follow. I feel more confident with better direction."

The CDP operates the former Noble Army Hospital that was converted into a training site for health and medical education in disasters, to include both acts of terrorism and manmade disasters. Now the Noble Training Facility (NTF) is the only hospital facility in the United States that provides hospital and healthcare workers a

location fully dedicated to training in disaster preparedness and response. "This training has everything to do with our hospital functions," said Michelle Hollingsworth, registered nurse. "The HERT course has prepared me better. There could be a mass-casualty incident or disaster, and I feel more confident

and comfortable. I personally will look at planning and preparedness more now."

The three-day course includes both classroom instruction and realistic scenario-based exercises—complete with the expected chaos, noise, and even victims from a mass casualty event. "This course is applicable to all hospital staff, whether you work in housekeeping, you are a doctor or nurse, even registration, everyone is going to play a part in a mass casualty incident to make it work efficiently and effectively," concluded Hollingsworth. ~



Michelle Hollingsworth, a registered nurse from Houston, Texas, listens for vital signs from a Human Patient Simulator during the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents course.



A healthcare worker attending the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents course prepares to triage simulated survivors from an explosion prior to hospital admittance.

Indoor Facelift Highlights CDP's Training of Responders Nationwide

If it's been a while since you've walked the halls of the CDP, you'll notice a facelift in our Main Complex. Students in the Main Complex will notice hallway entrances welcoming them to Cobra Alley, Operations Alley, Responder Alley, Command Alley, and Technician Alley. These passageways are just a few of the recent cosmetic changes that represent the diverse emergency responders from across the nation who train at the CDP.

"Our initial plan was to provide an atmosphere conducive to adult learning," said Rick Dickson, assistant director of training delivery. "The CDP's adult learners come from specialized response fields that relate to our training environment. The desire was to capture and label our training venues to represent the response community and stimulate learning at the same time."

In addition to wall hangings and passageway titles, the new decor features flags representing all 50 states and U.S. territories, and updated photos of emergency responders training at the CDP.

"We want our facility to represent response training that reflects the CDP all hazards approach" said Chuck Medley, training manager for SAIC and contract supervisor for the project. "Emergency responders will immediately connect with the imagery and relate to the titles we have given the various CDP corridors. It is simply a better training environment that emphasizes the mission of the CDP and the response environment we strive to perfect." ~



Flags representing all 50 states and U.S. territories adorn the rear hallway of the main complex. The flags, wall hangings, and a series of other cosmetic changes have enhanced the CDP training environment.



CDP Employees Support CFC, Big Easy Cleanup

Two members of the East Alabama Combined Federal Campaign Local Federal Coordinating Committee (LFCC) recently gathered in New Orleans with CFC administrators who represent government agencies nationwide. The CDP's own Tawana Hurst and Wendi Feazell were among four East Alabamians and hundreds of other representatives who met in the 'Big Easy' to initiate planning for the 50th anniversary of the CFC during the annual conference.

"This year's campaign will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Combined Federal Campaign," said Tawana Hurst, LFCC chairperson. "Our goal is to bring positive attention to the CFC campaign and increase donations remarkably throughout all federal and military organizations. We are striving to make this 50th Anniversary Year the best in CFC History."

During the week-long event conference participants did their part to continue recovery



Thickets of tall plants called tallow have succumbed large acres of land following the Katrina floods. CDP Employees Tawana Hurst and Wendi Feazell recently participated in a service project to clear land when they attended the annual Combined Federal Campaign conference held in New Orleans.

efforts of the Audubon Nature Center in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. More than five years following Hurricane Katrina the nature center remains one property in need of cleanup and restoration.

"This area was completely under nine feet of saltwater for 3 weeks," added Hurst. "Our service project was to remove invasive tallow (tall plants that can grow out of control) which impedes the growth of natural vegetation. We cleared about an acre section of tallow."

"The CFC helps millions of Americans in need each year," said Wendi Feazell, 2011-2012 CFC campaign coordinator for the CDP. "Our Audubon cleanup effort was very rewarding and another attempt for the CFC to help. What a great opportunity to help New Orleans—[the citizens there] have come back great, but lots of work remains. Our cleanup, although small, was a contribution I wish I would have made sooner."

The East Alabama CFC is made up of federal employees in six counties—Calhoun, Cleburne, Etowah, Randolph, Talladega and Tallapoosa counties. Federal agencies participating in CFC include Anniston Army Depot, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Post Office, Social Security Administration, Federal Correctional Institution and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The CFC prides itself as an organization that provides millions of dollars to charitable organizations annually. Volunteering time and labor to a devastated section of property



More than 400 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) volunteers came together in New Orleans recently for the annual CFC conference. Pictured in a small group above (from the right), front row dressed in blue, are CDP Employees Tawana Hurst and standing behind, Wendi Feazell. The conference attendees participated in a Katrina cleanup project to clear wetlands.

may not measure into dollars, but the value is unmatched to New Orleanians who call the Ninth Ward home. ~



Tawana Hurst (left) and Wendi Feazell stand with John Berry, director, Office of Personnel and Management during the annual Combined Federal Campaign conference.

Photos provided by Tawana Hurst and Wendi Feazell

Preparedness Challenge



SOUP & SALAD



In an effort to offer CDP students and employees more variety during lunch, a soup and salad bar has opened at the Noble Training Facility. The bar features a soup of the day and offers more than 20 salad items. In addition to the NTF, a soup bar is available in the main training facility.

A bowl of soup costs \$2, and salad weighs in at 30 cents per ounce or \$4.80 per pound. As always, lunch is only served during student training days. "The salad and soup bar are nice additions to the choices that individuals have when dining at the Noble Training Facility," said Bernice Zaidel, assistant director for curriculum development and evaluation. "The freshness and homemade soups are a real treat. The food service staff are always resupplying the bar to ensure fresh items are available." ~





Employee Association Store Offers CDP Apparel, Souvenirs

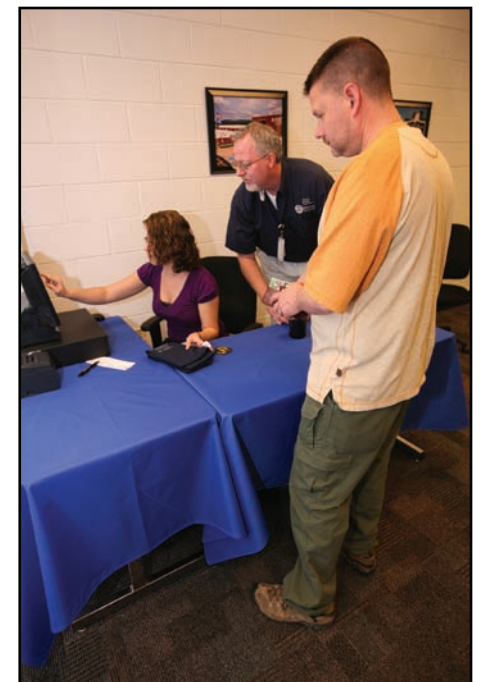
The CDP Employee Association stocked the final shelves and opened the doors to the Alumni Base Camp Store boasting an initial inventory of CDP shirts, hats, coffee mugs, and more. The store officially opened March 21, and has seen an increase in sales as its popularity among students and staff grows.

According to Grant Bissey, store manager, planning for the store has been in the process for more than six months. Renovating and wiring the location as part of scheduled facility renovations was essential to begin business operations.

“Once construction inside the store was complete, setting up the inventory controlling point of sale system was the most difficult process,” Bissey said. “Once shelving and appropriate storage areas were built we brought in over 15 items to be sold. We only lack a credit and debit card system at this point.”

Future transactions will also take on an e-commerce appeal. As the acceptance of a credit or debit system is in place, CDP alumni will have the opportunity to shop online. At this point the only location to purchase items is in the CDP Main Complex, however students attending courses at the NTF will soon be able to shop using a catalog and display case located inside the NTF. The NTF students will identify their wish list and a trip to the main complex will be arranged before graduation.

“Ideally we will eventually have an NTF store,” said Bissey. “It has been a great experience watching this take off. The CDP alumni want to take a part of the CDP home, and that is good to see. The students have a bond here, and we are proud to offer this opportunity.” ~



Photos above: The Alumni Base Camp Store has a limited variety of items in stock now, but will soon increase its inventory as more customer feedback is received. Future transactions will also be available over the Internet as e-sales to CDP alumni are offered. The store officially opened March 21, and noticed a dramatic increase in customer appeal as more and more alumni and staff take advantage of the items offered. Patches, shot glasses, coffee mugs, decals, T-shirts, hooded sweat shirts, and golf shirts make up a large majority of the current inventory.



Pictured left to right: Dressed in black shirts, Paramedics Jason Hail, Josh Stearns, Marcus Strickland, Kristy Bowling, Jodi Roberts, and Chris Roberts, stand with CDP Facilities Engineer Timothy McGuirk (Center). McGuirk credits the CDP paramedic team's quick response to potentially saving his life following a recent medical event. Not pictured are Paramedics Kendra Cobb, Derick Reaves, and Evie Waddell who support COBRA operations. The CDP paramedics provide medical support services for students and as necessary for staff through emergency stabilization, and emergency medical transport to a designated local area medical facility.

A NEW REASON TO COME TO WORK

By Timothy McGuirk, Facilities-Environmental Engineer
Center for Domestic Preparedness

The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is fortunate to have mandated medical personnel. I never considered the positive aspects of having Paramedics here at the CDP until recently. I now have cause to show gratitude daily for the contract Paramedics.

I was not sick but felt anxiety, like a long tailed cat in a roomful of rocking chairs. I stopped by the medic's office for a blood pressure check. It was a little high for me, but considered normal. An hour later, while sitting at my desk, I got thirsty. I got up to get a drink of water, came around my desk when suddenly I began to go down, down, down to the floor. Brent [Kent], who is as fast as a quarterback catching a football, caught my head before it hit the floor. I really do not recall all the details after that moment in time, but I could hear Brent calling for help. Suddenly Paramedics were on the floor with me, taking my vitals and checking my heart. (Thanks to Kelly [Wells] for calling them.) The next thing I knew, I was in an ambulance and Jason Hail, Lead Paramedic, was saying "you are going to be

really mad at me for what I must do." He injected something in my IV and suddenly it felt like an elephant sitting on my chest. He did this twice. You can only imagine.

Later I learned I went from Atrial Fibrillation, (AF) to SVT. This was the cause of my mother's death this past November.

At RMC, the Doctor praised CDP paramedics for their quick response, professionalism, knowledge, and expertise. He also praised them for an accurate description of the situation and efficiency. Had the paramedics not acted quickly and efficiently, the doctor told me that I could have had a heart attack or a stroke. I stayed at RMC for two days and one night for tests and observation.

My family and I are grateful to the paramedics for their quick thinking and professionalism. My wife reminded me that the CDP is the best place for bad events to happen. She is happy that I was not driving to or from work, or walking up/down the marble stairs. This is one of few places where paramedics are instantly available. The time it took to put me in

an ambulance and administer medication to stabilize my heart, compared to an ambulance coming from Anniston, was only a few minutes. Without the instant care I received by our Paramedics, this story may not have had a happy conclusion for me. It is an odd feeling knowing that I was possibly close to my last breath. I am extremely appreciative of the paramedics and their abilities. People who saw the event told me that the paramedics were very professional and acted as though this happens every day. (I was told this is the first time a paramedic was required to open the medication that brought on the elephant.) They also told me that if something bad is going to happen to them, they hope it is at CDP with such efficient, professional, expert first responders readily available. I have thanked the medics (and continue to thank them) and I hope others do also. We should never take them for granted. Life is unpredictable, next time it could be you. ~